

Concerns About Development

Research tells us that the first three years of a child's life are a critical time for learning. Concerns about a child's development may cause a family to worry.

- I'm worried that my son doesn't lift his head like he should.
- My daughter doesn't seem to hear me or respond to people around her.
- I just have a feeling that something is not right.

Although children grow and learn at different paces, there is a usual order and timeline that most follow.

You or your child's health care or other service provider should call the **Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program** (at the local numbers listed on the back) if you have concerns about your child's development.

The earlier the better.

For information or to refer a child and family to the **Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program**, call the number listed for your county.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Allegany | 301-689-0466 |
| Anne Arundel | 410-222-6911 |
| Baltimore City | 410-396-1666 |
| Baltimore County | 410-887-2169 |
| Calvert | 410-535-7380 |
| Caroline | 410-479-3246 |
| Carroll | 410-876-4437, x277 |
| Cecil | 410-996-5444 |
| Charles | 301-609-6808 |
| Dorchester | 410-221-2111, x1023 |
| Frederick | 301-600-1612 |
| Garrett | 301-334-1189 |
| Harford | 410-638-3823 |
| Howard | 410-313-7017 |
| Kent | 410-778-7919 |
| Montgomery | 240-777-3997 |
| Prince George's | 301-265-8415 |
| Queen Anne's | 410-758-0720, x4456 |
| Somerset | 410-651-1485 |
| St. Mary's | 301-475-4393 |
| Talbot | 410-820-0319 |
| Washington | 301-766-8217 |
| Wicomico | 410-677-5250 |
| Worcester | 410-632-5033 |

Maryland State Department of Education

Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program/Preschool Services
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410-767-0261 phone
1-800-535-0182 toll free
410-333-8165 fax
410-333-0731 TDD
MarylandPublicSchools.org



Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

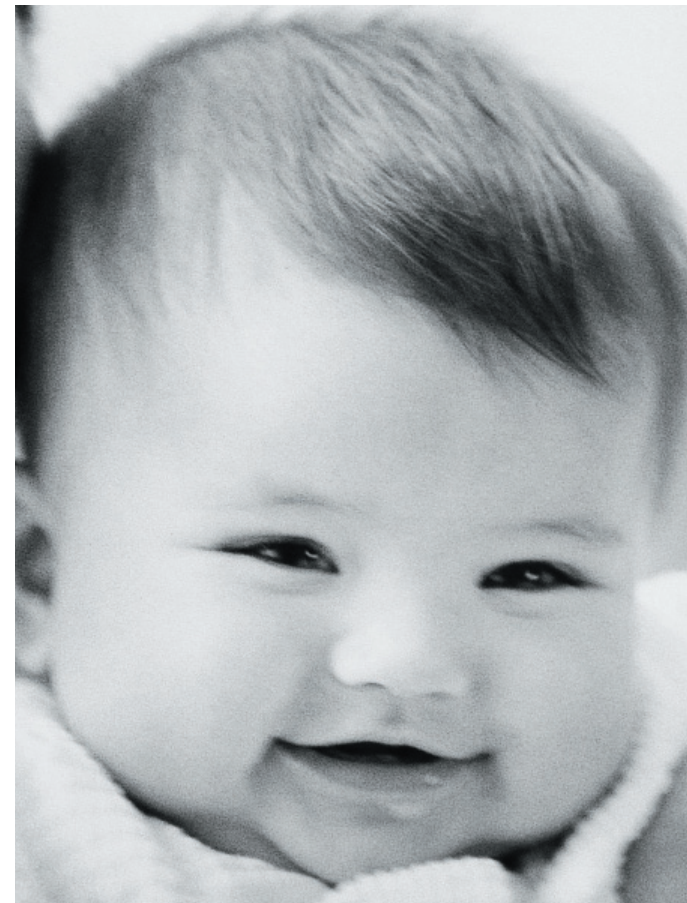
James H. Degraffenreidt, Jr., President, State Board of Education

Carol Ann Heath-Baglin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division
of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

8/08

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The *Earlier* The Better

A Guide to the Maryland Infants & Toddlers Program

For Infants and Toddlers
With Developmental
Disabilities and Their
Families

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Early Intervention

Families provide the foundation for young children to grow and learn. During the first three years of a child's life, it's important to focus on the child's developmental needs and make the most of his or her natural ability.

The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program directs a family-centered system of early intervention services for young children, ages birth to 3 years, with developmental delays and disabilities and their families—under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Early intervention services are designed to enhance a child's potential for growth and development and the family's ability to meet the special needs of their child.

Services are offered through local Infants and Toddlers Programs, at no cost to families, and may take place in the child's home or other natural environment.

You or your child's doctor or other service provider can call the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (at the local numbers listed on back) as soon as there are concerns about your child's development.

With your consent, the local Infants and Toddlers Program will evaluate your child's development and determine if your child and family are eligible for early intervention.

If eligible, you and your local Infants and Toddlers Program will develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), with one *or* several services to meet the unique needs of your child and family.

Your local Infants and Toddlers Program can also provide information about family support services such as the **Family Support Network**, which links families to workshops, advocacy organizations, and support groups for families of children with developmental disabilities.

Who Is Eligible

Your child and family may be eligible for early intervention if your child is under 3 years of age *and* has at least one of the following:

- A delay of 25 percent or more in development, *or*
- A diagnosed condition that is likely to affect development, such as a genetic disorder or severe hearing or vision impairment, *or*
- Is developing in a way that is considered 'atypical' for most children his or her age.

As you begin the early intervention process, remember that family involvement is linked to positive developmental and educational outcomes for children. Contact the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program for more information.